

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of September 26, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18, 22-35 and 47-59 remain in this application. Claims 19-21, 36-46 and 50-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended to update the status of the related application in paragraph [01]. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-14, 23-35 and 47-49 stand rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-57 of U.S. patent no. 6,917,373. Notwithstanding the merits, to obviate this rejection and expedite prosecution, applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 15-22, 36-46 and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 15-22, 40-50 and 51-54, respectively, of prior U.S. patent no. 6,917,373. Applicants have canceled claims 19-21, 36-46 and 50-53 rendering their rejection moot. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate features of claims 19-21 and is believed to be different in scope from any claim of the ‘373 patent. Claims 16-18 and 22, which ultimately depend from claim 15 are considered to be different in scope from claims 16-18 and 22 of the ‘373 patent. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/849,250
Amendment dated December 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2007

CONCLUSION

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 26, 2007

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